TO THE

Suffering SEED ROYALTY,

Wherefoever Tributed upon the Face of the whole Earth;

THE

SALUTATION

of Your

BROTHER

Under the Obscure Tent of BONDS, in

[illegible]

JOHN

[illegible]

[illegible]

To the Suffering Seed of Royalty, &c.

IN the Everlasting Bowels and Spirit of *Love*, *Unity*, *Pitty*, *Compassion* and *Mercy*, I truly set my whole *Mind*, *Soul*, and *utmost Strength* unto the Weight of *Your* **Yoak**, bearing your **Burdens** in *breathing* and *burning flames* of the Righteous Zeal of the Temple of the Lord God, and for your sakes am a man of *sighs*, *sobs*, *sorrows*, *tears*, *cryes*, *groans*, and of *supplications* and *prayers* night and day in my poverty and weakness, pleading and wrestling with the Most Strong and Mighty One for you all, in this the day of your **Temptations** and **soze Tryals**, that you may stand on the Foundation of the Heavens, which was before the Earth and the slippery places thereof were created or manifest; that whilst your Enemies watch for *your* **downfal**, ye may walk *as Mighty men*; and whilst they seek *for your* **haltings**, you may run *seven-fold* more *swift* in the *Race*; and whilst they seek *to cast you down* to the *ground*, you may *mount up* into the Heaven of the Glory of God, as with the *Wings* of *Eagles* and *Angels*; and whilst they think they have you *in* **woful places**, you may live *as in* **Princely Palaces**, cloathed with *soft Rayment*, fed with the *Bread of Saints* and *delicious Meats of Angels*, consolated with the *Harmony of Heaven*, and crowned with *Diadems of Glory*: Surely I have cryed **aloud**, **aloud**, **aloud**, even with a **lift up voyce** unto my God, saying; O my Lord God of all Mercies, is not *Israel* thy *Son*, and *Jerusalem* thy *only Daughter*? or, Was *Israel* of old, in the ancient dayes of *Moses*, *Joshua*, and the rest of thy *Servants* like unto *Sion* thy *Son* in this the day that thou hast made him a People? Though they *murmured* against thee, and *repined* in the times of their straights; yet thy *Mercies* failed them not in the time of need: And canst thou *forsake* or *forget* this thy *Chosen Generation*, which trust in thy Power to the utmost, and in the *deepest straits* are ready to say in their hearts, **Our God** *is the best of thousands*, and *more amiable* and *desirable* than all besides Him that is in the Earth or Heaven? Can thy *Righteous Soul*, forget

to

to be merciful, and remember no more to be *compassionate* unto the *languishing distresses* of thy own *poor* and *tender sucklings*, and *little ones*, which cannot stand *without thy help*, nor walk *without thy assistance*? Shall the Enemy say, *Lo, they were alwayes as a brutish people, as if the Countenance of God had never been towards them, and note his fury is fallen down flat upon them*? Oh Lord, why shall the *places* be alwayes *open* to the *floods*, and thy *plants* to the *storms* of the *winter*? If I have found *grace* or *favour* in thine eye, O Lord my God accept of me, if it be to be *nayled hand* and *foot* on a *Cross*, or torn asunder with *wild horses*. Oh but what could the destruction of my flesh *please*, *satisfie*, or *give content* to the Will of the Holy One in? for thou *requirest the heart*, which I offer unto thee, with the *body* and *its tears*, and the *deepest groans* of my heavy soul for thy *Israel*, that *Thou* in thy *Sion* mayest *be glorified*, who art *ten thousand times* more unto me than all thine *Israel* is. And for this cause of *thy Glory* in *Sion* and *Jerusalem*, knowest thou not that I could willingly *dye* with a heart *broken* indeed with *unspeakable grief* and *sorrows*? Surely my God, thou seest and knowest it, in *whose sight* O that I could be accepted to the thing indeed, even for *Israels Ransom*; for then should my *sorrows* be *joys* unto my soul, and with *gladness* would I flie unto *grief*, as a *shaft* that is shot to the *mark*: But alas, alas, I am a *Child* and a *Fool* before the *Eternal God*, and what am I to speak to *His Majesty*, but that surely He hath *Mercy*, and His *Compassions* can in no wise fail.

And behold, the God of Heaven *rent me* as a *Rag* with his *Power*, and *tore me* as a *Paper* with his Word, and *clove* me *asunder*, and even *ground* me to *dust* and *powder*, and *melted* me as *Wax*, and made me *run down* as a *River* of water; for He hath power over hearts, and can make contrite as he pleaseth, and broken as his Power moveth; whose Goodness *answered me*, saying,

I am *God*, even the *Lord God* of *all Dominion* and *Supremacy*, which holdeth the *Covenant of Compassions* and *Mercies*, who *changeth not*, but am as *yesterday*, so *this day*, yea, and *for ever* and *ever*, who speaketh unto thee: *Israel* is my *own Seed*, he is begotten of mine *Eternal Love*, and born of my *choicest Affection*: and therefore let *Israel*, the *Son* of *my bosom*, and *Love*

of mine *own heart*, know, that though a father might cast out the *son* of the seed of *his loins* born in his *own image*, and though a mother might hate that the *fruit of her womb* should at all be *suckled* or *nursed*; Moreover, though Man and Beast might grow out of all *natural kind*, and the *Earth*, *Seas* and *Rivers*, and all that in them is, become wholly *unnatural* in their *kinds*; yea, if the *Heavens*, with the *Sun*, *Moon* and *Stars*, could be changed from their glory, and no more be seen as Lights; yet cannot I *alter* mine *Affection*, nor *turn* the *tender Bowels* of my *Love* from *Sion* my *first-born*, and *transferre* my *only daughter*; but I who have *begotten*, *formed* and *created* him in the *womb*, do hold the *Treasures* of **Mercies** in *store* for him, and the *Eternal Riches* of *all Compassions* to be revealed. Yet a little, and it shall be *in mine appointed time* (wherein I will magnifie mine Eternal Glory) to his most exceeding and surpassing Joyfulness, even for ever and ever. And therefore though I, his *tender compassionate Father* have led him into the *Wilderness* to be **tryed** and **tempted**, that he may be *throughly* **cleansed**, **sanctified** and **purified**, yet lo, I *am walking* in the *midst* of the *Trees* of the *solitary places* among all his Tents, speaking *comfortable things unto* **Sion** *my Son*, and **Jerusalem** *my Virgin-Daughter*; for this is *the place* wherein I will *allure* her, and that with the promise of *Certainties*, and not of *Flatteries*, for I am the *righteous* and *faithful God* of *Heaven*; whilst I speak unto *Sion*, **O Sion**, *my Son*, and **Jerusalem**, *my Daughter*, appear ye as *my Off-spring*; and *as I live*, saith the Lord, *I will appear as your God*. I have born the *Iniquities of all Ages*, bear ye therefore *a little in this Age*, that ye may be known to bear my *perfect Similitude* and *Image* in your *Age*. And then behold, I thy God, who can *bear all things*, but not *thy bruises*, not suffer the *Oppressions* that are on thee (for that thou art tenderer to me than the Apple of mine Eye, because thou art weak and feeble, poor and helpless in thy self, and hast no weapon of vengeance with thee, save that thou castest thy griefs upon me, and thy sorrows, as darts, into my bosom) even I will **arise** as the **she Bear** that is *robbed of her young*, and as a **Lioness** *bereaved of her whelps*; yea, **I will roar** with the *voice of terrible Thunders* from the *Heavens*, and will *rend* in the *Earth*

beneath,

beneath; and make the horns of *Carnel* to smite against the horns of *Carnel*, the black against the bloody, and the speckled against the grizled, that *the Flock of my Pasture* may live. And thus I have *decreed* the work of my Hand, and by the *push* of the *Horn* of *an Unicorn*, Fortresses *shall fall*, and the Doors of Dungeons *shall be opened*, and my Seed *sing Psalms of* Deliverance; for I the *Faithful One* am the Saviour of *mine own Remnant*, which saith, we will stand still and not move; nay, we will not *move* hand *against* our enemies, nor finger *against* our fiercest foes: but will *commit* our cause to the *Holy One*, who *numbereth* the *footsteps of our way*; and if he *suffer us* to be *a sport*, then will we be a sport indeed, because through *our sport*, He can gain *himself a prey of thousands*; for He is the *Wise One*, even the *wonderful wise One*, whose way is past finding out: Wherefore we will *rest* and *be still*, and *hold our peace* in *Content*, until He hath *perfected* our *Patience* to his praise. This is the *Seed* to whom I have *covenanted Glory*, I the *Faithful* and *Holy One* have said it; I will cloath them *with my Sabbath dayes Robes of Righteousness*, and attire them with the *Ornaments* of *mine own perpetual praise*: their path shall be as the *purest Gold*, and their habitation as a *Palace artificially cut in a most clear Cristal Rock*, and *each* in his *dwelling* shall be as the *Sun* in the *Firmament*, shining through the Walls of his Habitation, that no flesh living shall be ever able to behold them for Glory: And behold, as their souls have gained hunger after *Righteousness* in the *labouring dayes* of their *tryals*, and thirst after *my Glory* in the *hottest oppressive hours* of *their Persecutions* and *Tribulations*; and whereas, the *more* they have *been oppressed*, the *more* they *loved* it for my *Name* and *Righteousness sake*: therefore *the day cometh* that they shall *eat* no *Bread* but my Life, nor *drink* no *Wine* but the *Rivers of* my Breath; neither shall they be as the *sons of men are*, but as the *Angels of my Glory* in Heaven; And yet at this time I will neither *tell them*, nor the train of *mine Host* in the upper places, what I will do for these *tender Lambs* of my pleasure; for they shall be mine *for ever* and *ever*, saith the Lord God Eternal of *Righteousness*, and of *all Love* and *Mercy*.

Ah

Ah **Children, children,** now let me *your Brother* in the Lord, ſpeak in his grace unto you; Though the *Day* is as the like hath never been unto you before, ſhut up in *Dens* and *Holes*, in *crouds* and *cluſters*, **Male** and **Female, old** and **young, ſtrong** and **weak**, without *reſpect* unto the *feeble*, or *any regard* unto the *infirm* and *tender* of *Body*; yet, Who is it that waiteth upon his God, but *feeleth Mercy* taking him by the hand? What *Babe* among you is it that cryeth *unto the Father*, in this the Day of the *Captivity* of your *Mother*, but hath the *openings* of the *breaſt* of *Conſolations*, and ſenſibly *ſucks* of the *refreſhing* and *reuiving Milk* of *Joyfulneſs*? Verily, I am one with you in *your Comforts* and *Gladneſs*; feeling, with you, how ſweetly your Father ſwadleth you, and beareth you in his Boſom, and with his own *right hand* rocketh you in the Cradle of his everlaſting Repoſe and Reſt; and as *you hunger*, putteth *pap* into *your mouths*; and as *you thirſt*, quencheth the *drouth* of your *deſires* with the very *drops* of his *own fountain*, and ſo feedeth you to the full, and makes you proſper in the way of his Power; and though *your* **Dens** are *noyſome*, and your **Dungeons** *darkneſs*, yet the *Breath* of *your God* is a precious *Perfume* continually in the middeſt of your *dwelling*, and *his Preſence* as the *light* of the *Sun* in your *habitation*; and **now** *more* than *ever* you know him *to be God indeed*, and *very gracious* and *good* indeed, a *ſure ſhelter* and a *ſafe refuge* indeed, which will never *fail you*, as you never *fail truſting in him*, but ſtand to the *utmoſt*, and ſay in *faithfulneſs*, and in the *countenance* of *his favour*, as my tender Soul hath ſaid, *What is Liberty* **without God**? *And, What is more pleaſant than a Priſon* **with my God**? Oh! Oh! my Father's Lambs, I can never tell you the *riches*, the *largeneſs*, the *fulneſs*, the *vaſtneſs*, and the *everlaſting Treaſures* of his *eternal Love* wherewith he hath *viſited* my *Soul*; and therefore my *whole heart* muſt ever remain ready to ſay, *Bleſſed* be the *Day*, yea, *thrice bleſſed* be the *hour* wherein I was *born* for *proof* and *tryal* in the *ſharpneſs* and *ſeverity* of *Bonds*; and yet you know not the *weight* thereof, neither can I tell you *a tenth part thereof*: I ſay, for all theſe things I muſt *bleſs* the *moment* for ever, wherein *I was born unto them*, becauſe never had *I ſuch ſweet* **union, fellowſhip,** and **converſation** with *my Maker* and *Husband*, as *I*

have

have had in these *most extream times* of *my tryals*; which I tell you the rather, that it may *provoke* your souls unto a *perfect willingness* and *readiness* of *submission* unto the same *pleasant Yoak*; for you are the Lord's *Cattel*, linked with the *Chain* of his *Love*, to the *Plough*, which shall turn up the whole Earth, and make **Wilderneſſes** *planted places*, and **ſolitary Woods** and **Deſerts**, *Vineyards of Red Wine*; yea, **barren Hills**, *Olive Plantations*, and **parched Mountains**, *most fruitful Corn fields*; that after *your labours*, you may *eat* the *fruits* of *encreaſe*, and *drink* the *Wine* of *your travels*. And therefore, O ye *tenderest Doves*, **lift up your hearts**, and *rejoice*, and **be not afraid** nor **diſmaid** at any thing *without you*, but **watch** and **fear** to hold the Teſtimony in *faithfulneſs* **within you**, and then ſhall the *Covenant* be certainly fulfilled unto you, even as the *Faithful One* hath *ſworn* it unto you *in faithfulneſs*.

And yet a little hearken unto my Experience, as Counſel, becauſe the Lord hath inſtructed me from on high, and ſhewed me the works of his Hands in the Deeps, and made me know the *Good Fiſhes of his Love*, from the *others* that *chaſe to devour*, and the *Beaſts* of the *Prey* from the *Lambs* of his *Paſture*; and the *ravening Fowls* from the *harmleſs Birds*, and the *ſubtil Serpents* from the *innocent ſimple Worms*; for I have been *driven* in the Deeps with *Whales*, and *hunted* in the Earth by *Foxes*, *Wolves* and *Lions*, and been ſubtilly *wept* and *lamented* for by *cruel Crokadiles*; yea, *Cockatrices* have ſpit venom in my face, and *Serpents* have followed hard after me, to find out my foot-ſteps, and *Dragons* ſpued out floods to overwhelm me: Beſides, Oh it cannot be told, the works of the *fiery flying Serpent*, and his *blazing appearances* as *Torches*! Oh the *Snares* that he hath *poliſhed*, and *Traps* that he hath *beautified* with *leaves* of *gold*, which nothing could *diſcover* unto me beſides Him that ſearcheth all hearts; in all which I had *no ſafety* but in the *ſecret cliſt of the Rock*, making **fear** my *Bread*, and **trembling** my *Cup of Wine*, and ſo I bolted my doors *with truſt*, and double-barred them *with confidence*, and made my bed of *patience*, and pillow of *peace*, and covered my ſelf with the *cloathing* of *Content*: which I tell you all as Counſel, that you may do the ſame, and abide in the ſame *Pavilion* of *ſafety*, and *Munitions of the mighti-*

eſt

the Rocks; and then shall you find your Guide to be *Walls of Fire* and *Walls of Brass* about you, speaking unto you, as he hath often spoken unto me in the many hours of my trembling, saying; Fear not, worm Jacob, for I am the God; there is no Enchantment shall prevail against thee, neither shall Dragon formed against thee prosper; yea, He gave me [illegible] Signs when *I sought them not*, and Royal *when I asked not for Answer*, but waited in my *simplicity*, and made it the care of my soul *to watch* in his *pure Contents*; for I *burned* with *zeal* for *his Glory*, and therefore often and carefully with *[illegible] tents*, and a heart *melted like Wax*, I have *prayed* and *beseeched* his *Mercy*, *rather to cut me off*, *without giving me the sight of the light of another day*, than that I should sin against his Grace, to make his Truth a reproach in the mouths of the Thousands which have gaped to swallow me up as a morsel; which I communicate unto you for all your *Encouragements*, assuring you, That the Lord God will never fail you in the *Humbleness*, *Contriteness*, *Fear*, *Trembling* and *Trust*, but will be with you to the *utmost*, saving and preserving you, and *magnifying* his *Names* to you; To whom be all *Glory*, *Praise*, *Honour*, and *Renown*, *Amen*, *Amen*, *Amen*; Even for *ever* and *ever*, *Amen*.

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